

TITLE

CURRENT LIMITING DEVICE AND A PDA UTILIZING THE CURRENT LIMITING DEVICE

BACKGROUND OF THE INVENTION

5 Field of the Invention

The present invention relates to a current limiting device, and in particular relates to a current limiting device for limiting an output current range of a PDA (personal digital assistant). The current limiting
10 device can be integrated in the PDA, thus reducing power consumption.

Description of the Related Art

Conventionally PDAs have not been used as hosts. As technology advances, PDAs have become more powerful and
15 can be used as hosts.

PDAs however cannot supply enough power to external devices due to the capacity limitation of the battery, thus PDAs often fail, hence output current is critical when the PDA is used as a host.

20 SUMMARY OF THE INVENTION

The object of the present invention is to provide a PDA. When powered by a battery, the PDA outputs a current to an external device, wherein the current is within a first current range. When powered by external
25 power through an adapter, the PDA outputs current to the external device, wherein the current is within a second current range.

The PDA outputs a current within a first current range to an external device when supplied with battery power and outputs a current within a second current range to the external device when supplied with external power through an adapter. The PDA comprises, a main device, a switching device and a current limiting device. The main device performs PDA data processing functions. The main device enables a control signal when the PDA receives external power through the adapter. The switch device has a first input terminal, a second input terminal, a control terminal and an output terminal. The first input terminal receives battery power. The second input terminal receives external power. The control terminal receives the control signal. The output terminal outputs battery power when the control signal is disabled and outputs external power when the control signal is enabled. The current limiting device is coupled to the output terminal of the switch device, wherein the current limiting device outputs the current within the first current range to the external device when the switch device outputs battery power and outputs the current within the second current range to the external device when the switch device outputs external power.

Additionally the present invention provides a PDA with built-in current limiting. The PDA is used as a host and is connected to an external device, wherein the current limiting device outputs a current within a first current range to the external device when the PDA is supplied with battery power, and wherein the PDA enables a control signal and the current limiting device outputs

a current within a second current range to the external device when the PDA is supplied with external power through an adapter.

5 The current limiting device comprises, a switch device, a current limiting device, a first resistor, a second resistor and a selecting device. The switch device has a first input terminal, a second input terminal, a control terminal and an output terminal. The first input terminal receives battery power. The second
10 input terminal receives external power. The control terminal receives the control signal. The output terminal outputs battery power when the control signal is disabled and outputs external power when the control signal is enabled. The current limiting module is
15 coupled to the output terminal of the switching device. The first resistor is coupled between the current limiting module and a voltage level (Gnd), to provide a first impedance. The second resistor provides a second impedance. The selecting device is serially connected to
20 the second resistor, wherein both the selecting device and the second resistor are coupled between the current limiting device and the voltage level (Gnd), wherein the selecting device is turned off and the limiting module receives only the first impedance when the control signal
25 is disabled, and wherein the selecting device is turned on and the limiting module receives the first and the second impedances when the control signal is enabled.

A detailed description is given in the following embodiment with reference to the accompanying drawings.

BRIEF DESCRIPTION OF THE DRAWINGS

The present invention can be more fully understood by reading the subsequent detailed description and examples with references made to the accompanying drawings, wherein:

Fig. 1 is a PDA with a built-in current limiting device;

Fig. 2 is a block diagram of the current limiting device;

Fig. 3 is a schematic diagram showing the circuit of the current limiting device;

Fig. 4 is a schematic diagram showing the pin definitions of the current limiting device.

DETAILED DESCRIPTION OF THE INVENTION

Fig. 1 is a PDA with a built-in current limiting device. The PDA 10 outputs a current within a first current range to an external device 17 when supplied with a battery power V_{BATT} and outputs a current within a second current range to the external device 17 when supplied with external power V_{adp} through an adapter 15.

The PDA 10 comprises, a battery 14, a main device 11, a switching device 12, and a current limiting device 13. The battery 14 supplies battery power V_{BATT} .

The main device 11 performs necessary data processing. The main device 11 enables a control signal A_{da-IN} when supplied with external power V_{adp} through the adapter 16. The switch device 12 comprises, a first input terminal, a second input terminal, a control

terminal and an output terminal. The first input terminal receives battery power V_{BATT} . The second input terminal receives external power V_{adp} . The control terminal receives the control signal A_{da-IN} . The output terminal outputs battery power V_{BATT} when the control signal A_{da-IN} is disabled and outputs external power V_{adp} when the control signal A_{da-IN} is enabled.

The current limiting device 13 is coupled to the output terminal of the switch device 12, wherein the current limiting device 13 outputs the current within the first current range to the external device 17 when the switch device 12 outputs battery power V_{BATT} , and outputs the current within the second current range to the external device 17 when the switch device 12 outputs external power V_{adp} .

Fig. 2 is a block diagram of the current limiting device. The current limiting device 13 comprises a current limiting module 21 and an impedance device 22.

The impedance device 22 provides a first impedance I_{mp1} and a second impedance I_{mp2} , wherein the impedance device 22 outputs the first impedance I_{mp1} when the control signal A_{da-IN} is disabled and outputs the first impedance I_{mp1} and the second impedance I_{mp2} when the control signal A_{da-IN} is enabled.

The current limiting module 21 is coupled to the output terminal of the switching device 12, wherein the current limiting module 21 outputs the current within the first current range when receiving the first impedance I_{mp1} and outputs the current within the second current

range when receiving the first impedance I_{mp1} and the second impedance I_{mp2} .

Fig. 3 is a schematic diagram showing the circuit of the current limiting device. A current limiting device 31 is built into a PDA, wherein the PDA is used as a host and is connected to an external device 17, wherein the current limiting device 31 outputs a current within a first current range to the external device 17 when the PDA is supplied with a battery power V_{BATT} , and wherein the PDA enables a control signal A_{da-IN} and the current limiting device 31 outputs a current within a second current range to the external device 17 when the PDA is supplied with external power V_{adp} through an adapter. The first current range is smaller than the second current range.

The current limiting device 31 comprises a switching device 12, a current limiting module 21, a first resistor $R1$, a second resistor $R2$, and a selecting device 32.

The switch device 12 comprises a first input terminal, a second input terminal, a control terminal and an output terminal. The first input terminal receives battery power V_{BATT} . The second input terminal receives external power V_{adp} . The control terminal receives the control signal A_{da-IN} . The output terminal outputs battery power V_{BATT} when the control signal A_{da-IN} is disabled and outputs external power V_{adp} when the control signal A_{da-IN} is enabled.

The current limiting module 21 is coupled to the output terminal of the switching device 12.

The first resistor R1 is coupled between the current limiting module 21 and a voltage level (Gnd), to provide a first impedance I_{mp1} . The second resistor R2 provides a second impedance I_{mp2} .

5 The selecting device 32 is serially connected to the second resistor R2, wherein both the selecting device 32 and the second resistor R2 are coupled between the current limiting device 21 and the voltage level (Gnd), wherein the selecting device 32 is turned off and the
10 limiting module 21 receives only the first impedance I_{mp1} when the control signal A_{da-IN} is disabled, and wherein the selecting device 32 is turned on and the limiting module 21 receives the first impedance I_{mp1} and the second impedance I_{mp2} when the control signal A_{da-IN} is enabled.

15 In this embodiment, the selecting device 32 is a N-type transistor having a gate receiving the control signal A_{da-IN} , a drain coupled to the second resistor R2, and a source coupled to the voltage level (Gnd).

20 The current limiting module 21 of the present invention is a current limiting integrated circuit(IC) 30 MIC2544 or MIC2548. A fourth pin of the current limiting integrated circuit 30 receives an impedance, and a maximum value of an output current (I_{Limit}) of the current limiting integrated circuit 30 is limited by the
25 impedance (R_{SET}) provided by the impedance device 22 in accordance with the formula $I_{Limit} = \frac{230V}{R_{SET}}$.

Fig. 4 is a schematic diagram showing the pin definitions of the current limiting device. The fourth

pin receives impedance and outputs a current according to the impedance.

Moreover, in the present embodiment, the external device 17 is a printer or a digital camera. The PDA and the external device are connected by a cable.

Advantages of the present invention are described in the following. The present invention detects the type of power supplied to the PDA. The PDA outputs a current within a first current range to an external device when supplied with battery power and outputs a current within a second current range to the external device when supplied with external power through an adapter. The first current range is smaller than the second current range. Finally, the PDA is used as a host and is connected to an external device.

While the invention has been described by way of example and in terms of the preferred embodiments, it is to be understood that the invention is not limited to the disclosed embodiments. To the contrary, it is intended to cover various modifications and similar arrangements (as would be apparent to those skilled in the art). Therefore, the scope of the appended claims should be accorded the broadest interpretation so as to encompass all such modifications and similar arrangements.